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A Broadband Initiative from the **Iowa Communications Network** 



# 2020: A look back at the decade in tech from Alexa to Xbox

"Alexa" was just another female name. Uber hadn't taken anyone for a ride yet. And the buzz around Facebook did not have the numerous data and privacy scandals that would tarnish the company's reputation later on. And while 10 years is a long time for most every industry, in consumer tech it might as well be a lifetime.

#### **Growth of Telemedicine Slowed by Internet Access Challenges**

Telemedicine has made strides in Indiana since the state passed its first major piece of legislation in 2015, regulating the new technology and requiring private payers and Medicaid to cover telehealth services.

#### Yet another school district hit by ransomware, this time in Illinois

Uncharacteristically for an attack of this sort, many of the district's systems remained uninfected, however, including its email, phones, website, student information systems, building alarm, Chromebooks and Google Suite for Education applications and data.

#### Tucson, Ariz., Boosts 911 Response Times with Tech Upgrades

Since Tucson combined police and fire communications centers and upgraded the technology used to dispatch multiple units from different stations, hold times for 911 calls to police have been cut by three-fourths.

# **Zoom and Telehealth: How the Latest Telehealth Platforms Are Changing Medicine**

Improvements in video conferencing technology have impacted just about every industry. The flexibility of telehealth allows it to be used for everything from long-term case management to short-term emergency medicine and disaster response. Zoom rolled out its telehealth offering in 2017.

### Preparing the next generation of GPS

Thanks to GPS, your car, your phone, even your watch knows exactly where you are on the planet, by listening to a satellite signal from 12,000 miles over your head. GPS is always on, you don't pay anything to use it, and you never need to know how it works. But don't you kind of wonder?

## FCC won't punish Verizon and T-Mobile for exaggerating their coverage maps

Verizon, T-Mobile, and US Cellular overstated their 4G coverage in rural communities across the country, a Federal Communications Commission investigation determined on Wednesday. Despite the Commission's findings, it will not punish the carriers in any way.

#### Growth of telemedicine slowed by internet access, insurance billing

Today, more hospitals and providers are offering consultations and services through virtual visits than ever before, and more rural Hoosiers are tapping into the convenience of talking to a physician through a computer or cellphone rather than potentially driving an hour to the nearest clinic.

## COMMENTARY: Filling the cybersecurity workforce gap is education's responsibility

To fill the massive demand for cybersecurity talent, secondary and higher education should focus their attention on developing cybersecurity courses that are rooted in IT operations and applications.

#### **Innovating for Public Safety: Tech to Protect Miami**

Tech to Protect is a nationwide coding contest to find solutions for public safety communications. The Miami location for the Tech to Protect Challenge was one of ten in-person coding contests inviting participants to create technology solutions that will aid emergency responders in serving and protecting communities across the country.

#### The One-Traffic-Light Town with some of the Fastest Internet in the US

Connecting rural America to broadband is a popular talking point on the campaign trail. In one Kentucky community, it's already a way of life.

### Survey indicates federal agencies lack adequate planning to recover from ransomware attacks

Among federal IT and agency leaders polled, 30 percent reported their agencies have been directly affected by a ransomware attack within the last three years, compared to 32 percent of state respondents.

## How the USDA is improving rural broadband development through its reconnect program

The USDA has been investing in rural broadband development across the United States through its ReConnect Loan and Grant Program. According to the USDA, this program offers "unique federal financing options in the form of grants, loans, and combinations thereof to create or improve rural e-Connectivity for rural customers across America."

#### Some Offices Still Closed After Louisiana Ransomware Attack

Nearly three-quarters of Louisiana's motor vehicle offices remained closed Monday as state workers continue to respond to the lingering effects of a cyberattack that hit state servers two weeks ago.

#### Four cybersecurity pointers for safer school networks

Do you know where your data is stored? With the increased emphasis on student data privacy, many school leaders might think they have a handle on cybersecurity. But even that seemingly simple question can have complex answers.



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